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SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA,
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC,
AND NONPROLIFERATION

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President
The White House
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

CC: HHS Secretary Alex Azar, CDC Director Robert Redfield, FEMA Administrator Peter
Gaynor, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn

Dear Mr. Vice President:

As COVID-19 continues to spread, we increasingly rely on our health experts to bravely man the front lines to ensure the safety of our local communities and our nation. After speaking with hospitals, doctors, health care providers, and emergency management coordinators across Missouri's 2nd Congressional District, I am concerned about the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that these experts need to safely do their jobs. Epidemiologists warn us to expect a surge in COVID-19 outbreaks across the country in the coming weeks. Missouri, like many other states, is facing a dire shortage of PPE and without the proper resources available to protect our front line health care providers, we risk becoming a hot spot for outbreaks.

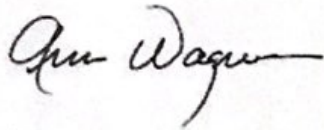
Missouri's doctors and nurses are calling for help and demanding more resources to protect themselves so that they can remain healthy and continue to serve patients. With the number of infections and need for tests increasing, it is imperative that we get more PPE to providers now. As of April 2nd, there are 52 hospitals in Missouri experiencing a critical shortage in PPE, and this number will only continue to rise if adequate supplies are not provided immediately.

Below is a list of supplies I am requesting to support Missouri hospitals, health care providers, and first responders:

- N95 Particulate Respirators
- Surgical masks
- Face shields
- Surgical gowns
- Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)
- Biological Filters
- Biological Hoods

I would also urge the Administration to further implement the Defense Production Act to direct industries to accelerate the manufacture of critical medical equipment desperately needed to protect our health care providers and save the lives of those suffering from COVID-19, and to ease any regulations currently restricting PPE manufacturing efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Wagner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress